

Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for Hambleton Parish Council

Keeping Hampshire moving whatever the weather

Hampshire Highways teams have been working hard through the year to make sure the county's roads are ready for the expected wetter autumn and winter weather and this autumn sees new equipment and technology put to work to help keep Hampshire moving.

New equipment is being used by Hampshire Highways to speed up the pruning process of overgrown branches on the road network. Using battery powered chainsaws and working from a raised tractor platform, teams are pruning overgrown trees along key bus routes to prevent damage to vehicles and ensure passenger safety.

In the past, highways teams have had to use a cherry picker to get to some of the higher branches, but the mobility of the new tractor and trailer system means there is no need for road closures. It means highways teams can make routes safe for buses while keeping disruption to drivers to a minimum.

Hampshire is continuing to buck the national trend with more people taking the bus to get around. This helps congestion at busy times and, in turn, helps improve air quality. We're doing what we can to continue to make bus travel an attractive and viable transport option for people who live and work in Hampshire, and this is just one of many ways we are helping to do this.

Going green

We're making significant financial and carbon savings with the introduction of zero emission vehicles for use by our StreetWorks team, inspecting utilities works, and in the day to day work of highways inspectors, engineers and technicians.

The electric vehicles have a range of over 150 miles and will cost only 2p per mile to run, compared with the 13p cost per mile of the diesel vehicles they have replaced.

Over the past decade, we've made over £30 million in carbon savings from our estate and operations. By the end of the year, 80 new electric car charging points will be installed across Hampshire, along with charging infrastructure at our offices and depots. It is part of a programme to convert all our small vehicle fleet to electric vehicles, helping to reduce emissions and improve air quality across Hampshire, and forms part of our wider commitment to embed environmental considerations in all the work we do.

These new highways vehicles are part of a total fleet of 28 Nissan leaf vehicles plus 7 Nissan e-NV200 Vans we have in use, with plans to increase this as current leases expire. All these vehicles are supplied by Hampshire Transport Management who manage our transport fleet.

Reducing the incidence of flooding

Heavy, intense rainfall can, as we all know, result in localised flooding, and trying to keep surface water off Hampshire's 5,500 miles of road surfaces is at the forefront of our highways preventive maintenance work throughout the year.

Alongside our annual roadside ditch clearing programme and routine maintenance work on Hampshire's gullies and catchpits, we've a programme of planned improvements to highways surface water drainage systems to make Hampshire's road network more resilient to the effects of extreme weather.

Each year, around £2 million is earmarked for maintaining 900 kilometres of highway drains and roadside gullies, but there are many gullies and watercourses on private land which can become blocked without regular maintenance. These blockages can lead to flooding on local roads after heavy rainfall.

There is a lot we can all do to reduce the incidence of flooding in local communities and the County Council will do what it can on Highways drainage. Residents and landowners are being asked to make sure ditches and drains on their land are kept clear of leaves, vegetation and other debris so water can run freely through them, as this will complement our work and ensure that, collectively, we have done everything we can to reduce, or in many cases eliminate, the risk of local flooding.

More information on the work we carry out in the fight against flooding, and how you can be prepared

County Council launches brand new stop smoking service for a SmokeFree Hampshire

Hampshire County Council) announced its new stop smoking service on 12th November, called SmokeFree Hampshire, which has been commissioned to provide Hampshire smokers with free support to quit smoking

Approximately 13% of Hampshire residents continue to smoke. As soon as you stop smoking, you enjoy health benefits: breathing and general fitness improve, physical activity becomes easier, there is a boost to the immune system making it easier to fight off colds and flu, plus your sense of smell and taste return. The health of those around you is also protected as they are not exposed to second-hand smoke.

Provided by Solutions4Health Ltd, the new service offers a range of support including face-to-face advisors, telephone advice, a digital offer and practical tips for those who want to try to stop smoking on their own. Evidence shows smokers are more successful in their quit attempt when they seek professional help. The service can also offer support to smokers who want to quit using an e-cigarette and can offer vouchers for a free starter pack.

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in England and the leading cause of health inequalities, placing a burden on the health of the population and on the local economy, with costs to health services and social care. Data reveals that nationally 428,000 households and 547,000 adults below pensionable age can be lifted out of poverty through returned tobacco expenditure (ASH, 2019). The cost to health, social care and local communities of smoking in Hampshire is estimated to be nearly £300 million a year.

Help for Armed Forces families to become school admissions savvy

With over 76,000 children from Armed Forces families attending schools in England, additional help is at hand to support these families to navigate the school admissions process.

A new video, funded by Forces Connect South East and produced by Hampshire County Council, has gone live - offering more detail on the steps Forces parents need to take to secure a school place for their child, with key dates for applications.

Hampshire is home to over 20,000 serving members and has all three services represented across the county. The County Council was one of the first local authorities to sign the Armed Forces Covenant in England – a national commitment that Service personnel, their families, Veterans and Reservists will be treated fairly.

It is not uncommon for children from Armed Forces families to move as many as 12 times during their school career, so it's important that parents have as much information on this process as possible. Local authority school admissions teams will do their utmost to accommodate the wishes of families and ensure a school place is offered to them before they have moved to their new location.

Dad of two, Russ, a serving Army Officer, said: "You can be deployed at short notice and this often means changing the children's schools and even moving countries. Understandably this can be challenging for the whole family and the most stressful part of the move can be making sure we get the right school. This new video is a great help in bringing clarity to parents like me, setting out the process and drawing attention to the support that is available."

School admissions - find out about the admissions process and when you can apply for a school place.

Helping carers to find the support they need

The 'Carers' Rights Day', was Thursday, 21st November, where Hampshire County Council reminded unpaid carers in Hampshire how to access the wide range of information, advice and support that can help them in their caring role

There are three keyways carers can access and find out about support:

1. **Hampshire Carers' Support and Dementia Advisor Service** provided by [Andover Mind](#), is available to any carer aged over 18 who looks after another adult. This service is for all carers, not just those caring for someone with dementia, and offers:

- one-to-one assistance, either over the phone Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, online or face-to-face with a trained carer support worker at a time that is convenient for the individual;
- general information and advice on carer-related topics online and over the phone;
- local carer support groups held across Hampshire.

For more information visit www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/dementia or phone the Carers' Support and Dementia Advisor Service support line on 01264 332297.

2. In addition, **Connect to Support Hampshire**, the county's one-stop-shop online directory of care and support provides further information and advice that can help carers and those for whom they care.

The Information Finder tool on the front page of the website is an excellent place to start – carers can simply tick the topics they would like help with to create a results page with clear links to follow. There is even an option to send the results page by email. If carers prefer, they can go straight to www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/carers for information on topics such as registering as a carer with their GP and arranging a carer's assessment with their local authority to identify what support they might need and how to access this.

Carers can also download the Connect to Support Hampshire mobile app for any smartphone or tablet from the Google Play and App Store or visit any of the County Council's 48 libraries to access the information on one of the computers available for the public to use.

The directory also lists a range of community information events taking place across the county. Search the '[News and events](#)' section of the website.

3. To support carers in an emergency, the **Carers' Emergency Planning Service** is provided by [The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire](#) and helps carers develop their own [emergency plan](#) so that they can arrange care in an urgent situation, and at short notice. Find out more on the website or contact the service on 0800 169 1577.

Cllr Roger Huxstep
Member for Meon Valley Division

2nd December 2019